

Appl. No. 10/507,019
Amendment dated February 4, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2007

REMARKS

In the September 20, 2007 Office Action, all of the claims stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the September 20, 2007 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1-4, 8-10 and 13-18 as indicated above. Thus, Claims 1-18 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 13 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On January 9, 2008, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Nalvin, who is in charge of the above-identified patent application and with Supervisory Examiner Jules. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nalvin and Examiner Jules for the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application during the Interview of January 9, 2008.

During the Interview, the rejections based upon U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0141888 (Bostwick) were discussed. Applicant argued that aspects of the rejections appeared to be improper. No agreement was reached.

Entry of August 29, 2007 Amendment

At the top of page 2 of the Office Action, the Office Action indicates that Applicants' August 29, 2007 Amendment has been entered.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0141888 (Bostwick). In

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response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 2 to more clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record, and put claims 8, 10 and 13 into independent form.

In particular, independent claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 13 all recite features of a centrifugal fan includes a main plate coupled to and rotationally driven by a rotary shaft of an electric motor. Each of the independent claims also requires a plurality of blades provided on the surface of the main plate on a side opposite the electric motor positioned radially outward from the cooling air hole. Each of the independent claims goes on to *require an air guide that is coupled to the main plate for rotation therewith proximate the cooling air hole.*

The structure required by each of the independent claims is *not* disclosed or suggested by Bostwick or any other prior art of record. Specifically, Bostwick fails to disclose or suggest *an air guide that is coupled to the main plate for rotation therewith.*

The Office Action states that Bostwick discloses a plate 20 (see Figure 1) that is rotated by a motor shaft 62. The Office Action also states that Bostwick has an air guide 70 (shown in Figure 6 of Bostwick). However, Bostwick unequivocally shows that the air guide is actually an end shield 70 of a static motor housing that *cannot rotate with the plate 20.* Hence, Bostwick fails to disclose each and every element required by amended independent claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 13.

It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 13 as now amended, are not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Moreover, Applicants believe that the dependent claims 3-7, 9, 11, 12 and 14-18 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from one of the allowable independent claims, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims 3-7, 9, 11, 12 and 14-18 are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not anticipate the independent claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 13, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claims.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

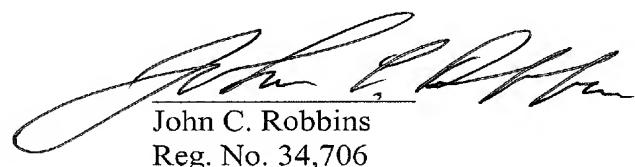
Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-18 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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